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Bureau of Land Management

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESCRIBED BURNS PLANNED NORTH OF POTOMAC

MISSOULA, (September 10, 2004) – The Missoula Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing for prescribed burns in the Whiskey Gulch and Buck Creek drainages in the Lower Blackfoot River Corridor about five miles north of Potomac. The burns will take one or two days to complete and will take place when weather and fuel conditions are favorable, but could occur anytime during the next month.

The prescribed burns will reduce the amount of fuel in the area by removing the dense Douglas-fir understory and stimulating shrub growth important for big game winter range. By removing the small, “ladder fuels”, the risk of large, catastrophic wildfires is also reduced. Fuels specialists are attempting to restore the historic ponderosa pine forest characterized by large diameter pine with intermittent openings.

Fire fighters will treat the 32 acre area using drip torches to burn the smaller vegetation. If you have questions, or want more information about the prescribed burns, please contact Shelagh Fox or Katie Albritton at the Missoula Field Office, phone 329-3914.